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FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

## Iowa gay fest raided

*A horde of law enforcement officers disrupts the tenth annual Midwest Men's Festival in a search for a "child pornography ring" -- attendees claim harassment and FBI infiltration*

By Chris Nealon

DES MOINES, Iowa — In an action that gay activists and civil rights lawyers have called "outrageous," local, county and federal officials descended Aug. 26 on the Midwest Men's Festival, a ten-day long outdoor event, claiming to be looking for a child pornography ring. According to men who were present at the raid, officers wearing rubber gloves confiscated festival registration lists and photo albums, and questioned various men about the presence of children at the Elkhorn Ranch, an Iowa campsite.

The action, which took place around 7 a.m., involved some 31 law enforcement officers, including agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), 18 police cars and at least one helicopter. Officers made two arrests, one for possession of marijuana, another on a second-degree child abuse charge.

Participants in the festival have vehemently denied that their event has anything to do with child pornography, and the Iowa Civil Liberties Union (ICLU) filed suit Sept. 6 on

behalf of the festival, demanding the return of confiscated material and challenging the legality of the warrant used to conduct the search.

"About the first four articles of the Bill of Rights were just stomped into the ground," said Mark Reed, registrar for the festival, which was attended this year by about 60 men. He told *GCN* that festival organizers "don't know who precipitated the whole thing," but said that if the FBI was involved from the start, "this smacks of McCarthyism."

In fact, Reed said, local officials who took part in the raid "seemed somewhat embarrassed" when it became clear that there was no child pornography ring at Elkhorn. Reed added that the two boys at the festival, aged 9 and 11, were accompanied by their guardians.

Rick Graf, a festival-goer who ran for Iowa City Council in 1989, said he was furious about the raid. "It's clear that they had nothing to go on except that we're queer," he told *GCN*. "I do not think there was one

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## Drag queen bust sparks Provincetown riot

*In an example of what one local gay man calls a "pattern of police ineptitude," P'town cops arrest a drag queen and find themselves in the middle of a melee*

By Laura Briggs

PROVINCETOWN, Mass.—In a night reminiscent of the Stonewall riots, about 200 gay men and lesbians here pelted a police car with garbage, pizza and coins in the early hours of Sept. 5. The action came in response to the arrest of a drag queen, which some say was part of a pattern of local police harassment of lesbians and gay men. Police officials denied those charges, and attributed the mob action to drunkenness.

"Everyone in town is fed up with the police," said local resident and gay activist Mike Mammone. "At the end of the night, it seems like they just grab anybody. It's as if they had a quota," he told *GCN*.

According to both eyewitnesses and police reports, the riot began sometime after 1 a.m., following a summer's end party at the Crown and Anchor bar. In high-camp style, spoof "Golden Plunger" awards were distributed, and a drag queen named Vanilla accepted many of them on behalf of others. The party then moved to an after-hours club, Spiritus. Outside Spiritus, Vanilla, still carrying a bathroom plunger, attempted to stick it on the back of a van carrying friends. Police intervened and arrested Vanilla.

At that point, according to Mammone,

"All hell broke loose." The crowd outside the bar surrounded the police car. One woman, Lillian Vadeboncoeur, attempted to free Vanilla by opening the cruiser door, and she too was arrested. Protesters broke the windows and headlights on the car, and threw pizza, ice cream and coins. According to Provincetown Police Chief James Meads, rioters caused \$3,000 in damage to the cruiser.

Two other individuals were picked up for drunkenness during the melee, but not charged; one was a heckler who was encouraging the police.

Police called in reinforcements, and the stand-off ended when Vanilla and Vadeboncoeur agreed to leave the cruiser and walk to the police station with Chief Meads. Protesters followed, and maintained a vigil outside the station until the four people in police custody were released.

Vanilla and Vadeboncoeur were charged with being disorderly persons. Both were released on their own recognizance several hours later. Vadeboncoeur was arraigned later in the morning, where she "admitted to sufficient facts" and was fined \$50. Her case was continued without a finding. Vanilla failed to appear in court, and a warrant has

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EIGHTH ANNUAL SPREAD!

## POETRY AND DRAWINGS

BY LESBIAN AND  
GAY PRISONERS



DENNIS LENNON

## Gay rights measure defeated in Florida

*Although disappointed, local activists say the pro-gay campaign has permanently changed the face of lesbian and gay politics in the state*

By Chris Nealon

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — In a defeat that local activists nonetheless say marks significant progress for lesbian and gay politics in Florida, Broward County voters rejected a pro-gay amendment to their human rights ordinance Sept. 4. The 22-word measure, which lost by a margin of 59 to 41 percent, would have added sexual orientation to the county's list of categories protected against discrimination.

"It thrills us that 71,000 people came out and voted for gay rights in Broward County," said Brad Buchman of United Citizens for Human Rights, the organization that led the pro-amendment lobby. "I don't think that's a major defeat."

Buchman told *GCN* that he thought the campaign had organized Broward County's lesbians and gay men into a viable political force for the first time, and that the new energy would not fade after the referendum's loss. "Our community is really going to become a political animal," he said.

### Sudden opposition

As recently as a month ago, lesbian and gay activists were saying that the pro-amendment campaign was going beautifully. No organized opposition had surfaced, and gay lobbyists led a voter registration drive in gay bars that produced 2,000 new voters in six weeks, a county record. Even though only one other community in the U.S. has ever put lesbian and gay rights on the books through an open vote (Boulder, Colo., in 1987), early forecasts seemed to indicate that the gay community in Broward County had a winner on its hands.

By mid-August, however, a full-scale battle was raging over the amendment. The right-wing Christian Coalition swept through the area with leaflets decrying the referendum as the beginning of the end of decency in the county, claiming that a pro-gay vote

would flood the area with thousands of child-molesting homosexuals. South Florida's Roman Catholic Archbishop, Edward A. McCarthy, sent a letter to parishes around the county calling the measure "morally unacceptable." Lobbyists on both sides of the issue began to report harassing phone calls and death threats. Quite abruptly, the political picture had been rearranged (see *GCN*, Aug. 18- Aug. 31, 1990 and Sept. 2-8, 1990).

In addition to the last-minute right-wing assault, activists said that a low turnout on the part of elderly, liberal Northerners helped defeat the amendment. Allan Terl, a local gay attorney who helped start the campaign, told *GCN* that pro-amendment lobbyists simply expected too much from the retiree community, whom he thought found the issue of lesbian and gay rights too volatile to support. "It was terribly soft out there," said Terl. "What they were saying was, 'Don't rock the boat. Don't make us deal with that.'"

Buchman, meanwhile, said he thought the response of the gay community at large, despite the wildly successful voter registration drive, was "very apathetic." He added that he thought many gay men and lesbians didn't really believe they would have to fight for so basic a right as protection from discrimination, a perception Buchman called "tragic." "If you're not going to come out to vote for your own rights, I guess you're not going to vote for anything," he said.

### The long term

Nonetheless, Terl said he thought lesbian and gay activists drew some important tactical lessons from the pro-amendment drive, most significantly that "you don't put civil rights up to a vote."

"We had to go that way because the original ordinance was done that way," said Terl. (Broward County's Human Rights Act was passed by a popular vote in 1983, and amendments to it must meet the approval of

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# NEWSNOTES

## Quote of the week

"We think we'll make a difference. These are real voters. If we told them to vote for Mickey Mouse they'd vote for Mickey Mouse if he was prolife on the issues."

—Roderick Murphy, a coordinator of anti-abortionists at the Republican convention in Massachusetts, on voter turnout in the upcoming GOP primary, in the Boston Globe. Murphy expressed great confidence that as many as 75,000 anti-abortionists will cast ballots for anti-choice candidates in the Sept. 18 primary.

## Homecoming equals gay day in Minn.

MINNEAPOLIS—The department of Men's Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of Minnesota confirmed in August that this year's homecoming celebration and game will be proclaimed "University Gay Community Day."

Deb Quist, co-chair of the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Network, said, "It's nice to see our efforts for visibility and acceptance here at the University being recognized," according to *Equal Time*, a gay newspaper here. The Network said it will also run lesbian and gay candidates for homecoming royalty, and that other gay and lesbian groups may be entering floats in the homecoming parade.

Many on campus hope that the event will continue on an annual basis and bring back graduates who may have felt isolated as students.

Susan Schmitz

## Puerto Rican Day Parade welcomes gay/les contingent

NEW YORK—For the second year in a row, a lesbian and gay contingent marched in this city's Puerto Rican Day Parade. More than 100 people joined the officially recognized group, including the city's newly appointed and openly gay Human Rights Commissioner Dennis DeLeon.

According to *Philadelphia Gay News*, the contingent, organized by the Latino Lesbian and Gay Coalition, met with a positive response from marchers and observers of the parade. Among the participants were members of United Hispanic Gays and Lesbians, Boricua Gay and Lesbian Forum, and Las Buenas Amigas.

Many lesbian and gay marchers focused their political message on the island's AIDS epidemic. One sign, referring to the upcoming plebiscite to determine Puerto Rico's political status, read, "Commonwealth, independent, or static, AIDS is killing us."

Laura Briggs

## HRCF joins boycott

WASHINGTON—Yet another gay group has endorsed the boycott against Miller beer and Marlboro cigarettes. The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) decided to support the move after a recent meeting in Portland, Ore., according to the *Dallas Voice*, a gay and lesbian paper.

In April, ACT UP/D.C. called for the boycott of the Phillip Morris Corporation, which owns both of the companies that make Marlboro and Miller, because the corporation is one of the largest contributors to homophobic Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.). (See *GCN*, Sept. 2-8.)

"We believe the boycott can play an important role in educating the public about the role Phillip Morris has played in undermining the struggle for an effective strategy against AIDS and full civil rights for lesbians and gay Americans," said HRCF executive director Tim McFeeley.

Other organizations supporting the boycott include the United States Student Association and the Los Angeles chapter of the United Farm Workers Association, as well as bars and restaurants in 18 cities.

Susan Schmitz

## Gay activists target Argentine embassies

ARGENTINA—Protests were held at Argentine embassies around the world Aug. 10 in response to reports from gay activists here that the government is engaging in various

forms of anti-gay repression, according to the *Advocate*.

Rafael Freda, vice president of Comunidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA), the country's only national gay rights group, said that "gay people are arrested and detained for a day for just walking down the street together." In the capital, Buenos Aires, municipal election law allows the president of an electoral polling place to turn away potential voters based on "unworthiness," and Freda asserted that this tactic is being used to keep gay people from voting.

An official at the Argentine embassy in New York denied the discrimination, saying, "I don't have the slightest idea about these charges...homosexuals are treated the same way in Argentina as they are treated in the United States."

Susan Schmitz

## Hong Kong repeals sodomy law

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's legislative council repealed the colony's sodomy law July 11. The repealed sodomy law called for life imprisonment upon conviction.

According to the *Advocate*, legislators are trying to enact a bill of rights that includes protection of gay and lesbian rights before 1997 when the colony will again be under Chinese rule. Sodomy is illegal in China.

Susan Schmitz

## Survey finds hotlines are white and male

WASHINGTON—A recent national survey comparing gay telephone hotlines that offer counseling and referral services to gay men and lesbians shows that the hotlines are largely white male operations that are staffed by mostly white male volunteers and primarily serve male callers.

Volunteer staffs of the 50 hotlines responding to the survey are 74 percent male with 89 percent of those being white, reports the *Washington Blade*. African-Americans accounted for only five percent of hotline staffs.

Louis Wesly, director of the D.C. Switchboard, said recruitment problems stem from the fact that African-American, Latino, and Asian gay men and lesbians prefer to work with organizations that primarily serve women or people of color.

Susan Schmitz

## New England Mr. Drummer chosen

BOSTON—In another steamy competition, topping off a busy season of Boston leather trials and run-offs, the Aug. 18 selection of New England Mr. Drummer pulled hundreds of leather men (and a smidgen of leather lesbians) from every corner of New England. The brainchild of writer John Preston, Mr. Drummer '90 will "take the reins and lead our community," according to M. Jeff Zirpolo of Riders Motorcycle club, the contest's sponsor.

Although the actual numbers of lesbian leather women showed only a marginal increase from 1989, on-stage lesbian presence grew markedly. In the Parade of Colors, during which clubs take the stage carrying their club's colors or insignia, there were, in addition to last year women's SM group T-Bear, two new women's groups: Lesbians in a Perverse Society, who are members of the Boston area women's dungeon, and surprise guests The Outcasts of San Francisco, a notorious band of SM women. One of the evenings speakers was the T-Bears' Deb Riley, who has been doing ground-breaking work uniting Boston area leather men and women. Per usual, the leather men gave a tumultuous applause to both Riley and the women's clubs.

After the cruising, hot and creative fantasy segments (the absolute highlight of the night), and leather image (in which contestants respond to questions), the ballots were counted. The winner was Don Robert, who, during the introductions, had urged gay leather men and lesbian leather women to "take back the streets and attend and support the local Mapplethorpe exhibit for we must not let them take our freedom away."

Robert will be heading off to San Francisco to compete in the Mr. Drummer contest, while the funds raised during the night are headed toward the coffers of the local gay and lesbian health center.

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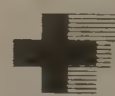
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Gilles, of the governor's office, (l to r) ACT UP members Gregg Gonsalvez, Skuce and Ray Schmidt

## Burroughs-Wellcome backs down

*Along with other drug companies, the manufacturer of AZT negotiates with AIDS activists and drops its support of a bill that would have limited access to information about drug protocols*

By Laura Briggs

BOSTON—In a surprise move, drug manufacturers have agreed to withdraw support for a bill that would have severely limited the access of people with AIDS and their advocates to information about experimental drug trial protocols. Pharmaceutical company representatives and AIDS activists concluded two and a half months of negotiations with a joint press conference here Aug. 28 announcing a series of "understandings" that, they said, eliminate the need for the legislation.

"It is hard to call it a victory, exactly," Stephen Skuce of ACT UP/Boston told *GCN*, "But something that would have been very bad has not happened. It became clear that drug companies were willing to settle for not very much at all."

Burroughs-Wellcome, the controversial manufacturer of AZT, was the primary sponsor of the now-defunct legislation. The "Trade Secrets Bill," would have amended the Massachusetts Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to prevent citizens and consumers from obtaining any information that a company defined as a "trade secret." It

also would have prevented AIDS activist groups like ACT UP or the Multicultural AIDS Coalition from examining the ethical and health implications of a drug testing method.

Activists believed the bill had a good chance of passing the legislature, with the powerful backing not only of Burroughs-Wellcome but also of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association and Bristol-Myers Squibb (See

*GCN*, April 15).

"People with AIDS need to know that a clinical trial is survivable for them," said Skuce. "It's not as simple as if there were only one trial of ddI. People will, quite literally, 'shop' for a trial design that they believe they can survive. You can't expect people to walk blindly into a trial—people want information."

In an accord that Steven Busby of the Community Research Initiative of New England (CRINE) termed "a preservation of the status quo," both sides agreed that drug companies would be notified when drug-test protocols are requested from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

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## Michigan at 15

*While debate between pro- and anti-S/M women is relatively mild, a controversy brews between white craftswomen and Indian women angry about encroachment of Native American culture*

By Laura Briggs

HART, Mich.—In one of the event's largest turnouts in its 15-year history, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival drew together about 8,000 women, mostly lesbians, from Aug. 15 to 19. The five-day women's cultural fest featured many memorable musical performances, a wide array of workshops and, of course, political differences. S/M lesbians — fewer in number than in years past — squared off with anti-S/M women and festival organizers over the issue of space for S/M lesbians to camp together and to organize S/M "play parties." The disagreement culminated in a dramatic air drop of leaflets by pro-S/M women.

Additionally, controversy erupted over mostly white craftswomen's appropriation and commercialization of Native American cultural and spiritual symbols. The controversy led to a March Against Racism that became a confrontation between artisans and Indian women.

The annual event, located in the secluded woods of rural Michigan, gave the appearance of relative calm for its first three days, as women camped, flirted, networked and attended a variety of workshops and concerts. With their years of experience, festival organizers and workers efficiently created a small women's village, as staff and fest-goers (performing their mandatory four-hour workshifts) provided services for women. These services included three meals a day,

warm showers, transportation and sanitation systems, child care, basic health care, emotional support, and 12-step program resources for women recovering from addiction.

A commitment to access for women with disabilities resulted in a newly paved sidewalk through the "downtown" area (near food, music, and services), American Sign Language interpreting for all concerts and shuttles from the disabled women's camping area (DART) to all festival sections. A thriving open-air bazaar sold everything from clothing to sex toys to art and jewelry.

### S/M debate

Until the Saturday night leaflet drop, interest in the S/M debate, which has polarized past festivals, seemed at low ebb, even among S/M lesbians and separatists. A Friday morning forum on S/M at the festival, hosted by festival organizers, was attended by about 40 women, who were easily outnumbered by participants in a competing Country Western Dancing workshop. A number of S/M lesbians and seps told *GCN* that they were no longer interested in fighting with other women about the subject.

However, S/M women and separatists did find ways to gather. A large "Lesbian Separatist Space" banner was hung by a campsite along the main road. And, in spite of a boycott of the festival by a number of S/M women, notably women from the San

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## Klan march thwarted

*A massive police presence is on hand as progressive activists foil the hate group's scheduled gathering*

By John Zeh

WASHINGTON — A coalition of labor, student, and human rights groups that had mobilized to counter a march by Ku Klux Klan members forced the white supremacists back on to their buses and out of public view Sept. 2.

The hundreds of protesters, including many lesbians and gay men, refused to honor the police's demands that they hold a counter-rally some distance from the Klan's planned route start at the Washington Monument.

More than 2000 D.C., U.S. Park, Military and Capitol Police formed an impenetrable phalanx over 16 blocks long between Klan members and anti-Klan protesters, who had gathered and rallied before the march's scheduled start. The Klan event lasted a mere 25 minutes, and — three hours after the counter-protest began — police revoked the Klan's march permit, escorting a bus load of 44 Christian Knights from a rendezvous site at the Pentagon to the Capitol's East Steps.

"We are victorious," said Sahu Barron of the All People's Congress (APC), which mounted the counter-demonstration. "We have stopped the Klan."

"It was important to organize a strong show of humanity against these terrorists," said Larry Holmes, an APC spokesperson from New York City. "The most dramatic, most effective step to counter them is with a sea of people [who have] come out [to send] an unequivocal sign that they are not welcome and should crawl back under the rock from whence they came."

During the Klan's abbreviated demonstration, group members wearing colorful robes chanted, "What do we want? White power in America! When do we want it? Now!" Imperial wizard Virgil Griffin also called for the election of David Duke as U.S. president. Duke, a Louisiana legislator and former Maryland Klan chief, is now a candidate for the U.S. Senate.

Police counted the crowd at 3000, possibly the only inflated estimate of attendance at a political rally in Washington in recent memory. More realistically, fewer than 1000 demonstrators and curious tourists lined Constitution Avenue, where the KKK's march to the U.S. Capitol had been scheduled to start. Others stood along the designated parade route.

Police said they were out in force with horses, dogs, motorcycles, helicopters, tear gas, and other riot gear because they feared a repeat of a 1982 rampage by counter-demonstrators who were kept away from the KKK then.

Counter-protesters charged that the huge police presence wasted government funds. "It's pretty disgusting that the government can always find money to protect the Klan, but [not] for health care and fights [against] AIDS in America," said Michael Petrelis of ACT UP/D.C.

The fact that the Klan had received a permit also prompted debate about the hate group's right to rally. "I don't believe in free speech if it advocates genocide, racism, homophobia," said Wendy Sharp, another member of ACT UP.

"I'm here to express my outrage at the Klan: their [being] allowed to walk the streets, and their Neanderthal attitudes," said demonstrator Sarah Rauber. "It's disgraceful," added Rauber, who carried a sign reading, "This lesbian says FuckKKK off!" and wore a "Dump Jesse Helms" button.

"It's real exciting," she said of the campaign to remove the North Carolina Republican from his Senate seat. "People all across the country are raising funds for Harvey Gantt [Helms' opponent and the Democratic nominee] because Helms is such an evil pig." Former Charlotte, N.C. Mayor Gantt, who has climbed steadily ahead of Helms in polls, would be the first Black Democrat elected to the United States Senate.

"The Klan is just as dangerous as Helms," echoed Petrelis, originally an ACT UP member in New York City. "The whole right-wing agenda is out to get Blacks, gays and people with AIDS. There's a definite connection."

"Duke, an ex-Grand Wizard of the Klan, is now a Republican running for the Senate," said Petrelis. "I can name another Klan member running for the Senate, and that's Helms."

"Gay men and lesbians can look down the street at the offices of Helms and [California Republican Rep.] William Dannemeyer, the bigots working to ensure [we] don't have equal rights, that we are pushed into the closet," said Dan Quinn of Oppression Under Target! (OUT!), D.C.'s premier lesbian and gay direct action group.

"We're here to say no," he said. "Not just to the marchers, but to the Klan mentality [that] tortures, kills and discriminates against our people." Quinn also led a chant, "Sheets were made for love, not hate. Homosex is really great!"

"People of color, women, lesbians and gays, Jews, immigrants, the disabled, political radicals, and workers are never going back to segregation, closets, fear and slavery," said Dr. Susan Williams of the Metropolitan Hospital in East Harlem. "We want the promise of the civil rights movement fulfilled."

A dozen Guardian Angels wearing red



JOHN ZEH

berets stood by, faces painted black and white "to show people of all races working together," said Bernard Goldstein of the D.C. chapter.

Avirang, a local Korean cultural troupe, punctuated speakers' messages with drums and gongs as tourists' children danced in the streets. Another group, Positive Force from Northern Virginia, played the drums and urged non-violence as protesters shouted, "We're going to beat back the racist attack. Racist, sexist, anti-gay. KKK go away!"

Four arrests were reported during the day, including one man charged with inciting riot after he allegedly urged an attack on an elderly German tourist with short hair whom the demonstrator accused of being a skinhead. The bloodied man, three others, and four police were treated for minor injuries.

"History will record," said APC's Holmes, "that we are here to say, 'No, we won't let it go down, and that we want to stop the war'" against Black and Latino people, lesbians and gay men, and poor people, among others. KKK "scum deserves to be lined up against the wall," he said, "and [let] the wrath of the people come down on them."

### The KKK today

KKK is a designation given to two distinct American secret societies. Organized in the South in 1866, the first opposed Reconstruction, a period of readjustment after the Civil War. It used elaborate disguises and rituals, augmented by whippings and lynchings, to terrorize Black people and their supporters and keep them away from the polls.

The second Klan in 1915 had a wider scope, embracing anti-Semitism, anti-Catholic, and fundamentalist impulses. By the mid 1920s, the Klan had over four million members. During the 1960s, it used violence against Black and white civil rights workers in the South and actively recruited members in the 1970s.

"Despite an overall decline of member-

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## GCN Editorial Guidelines

The "Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" sections in GCN are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed within our pages. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and "Speaking Out" contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space available basis only. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff or membership.

All letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

Because GCN wishes to encourage dialogue and a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, printing of "Speaking Out" contributions received from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" appear in GCN recently may be postponed temporarily.

For editing purposes, it is helpful to be able to contact you easily — please enclose your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article. Thanks.

**Send to:** Community Voices/Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" contributions are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff, Board or membership.

## Boston hospitality

Dear GCN:

I am up here from Atlanta on a combination business/pleasure trip and I feel it is necessary to write to your publication to express an opinion I feel very strongly about.

Last Saturday evening I and two other friends of mine from Atlanta had dinner and went out to several clubs in the area. I'm an extremely tolerant person and also a very well-bred southern gentleman of 29. I was appalled at the lack of courtesy and the

downright rudeness I and my friends encountered from nearly every place we visited. I don't know what the problem is here but when friends visit me in the south from wherever they live I go out of my way to be as polite and generous as I possibly can be. This is not the case in this city. My Georgia twang was made fun of and I was told that I sounded like a "hick." I'm very sorry if I sound different from people who live here but to infer that I sounded uneducated and stupid I find very offensive. I am a graduate of Emory University with a degree in law and hardly feel that I fit into that category.

The bartenders are very unfriendly and I believe it wouldn't hurt quite so much if they bothered to make their customers feel comfortable by offering so much as a smile or thank you.

I'd heard that northerners were cold and I understand that comes with the territory but to be rude to visitors shows ignorance and pretension shows insecurity and lack of self-esteem.

I can only hope that if any gay person from this area who has the opportunity to visit the deep south will learn something from the experience on how to conduct themselves with proper manners. Perhaps a night course could be offered somewhere on what seems to be a major flaw in an otherwise great city.

Respectfully,  
James Hilliard III  
Atlanta, Ga.

## More comments from Worcester

Dear GCN:

In the July 15-21 edition of GCN some misleading information about my position was published. In the article on AIDS Project Worcester's differences with Leatherforce 2000, the reporter stated that I was "director" of Health Awareness Services. I am not director of Health Awareness Services! I am AIDS Health Educator and as such coordinate the AIDS education/prevention efforts of the agency under the educational service component of the agency.

While I'm at it, let me correct a couple other minor errors. The Rubber Team conducts its outreach to target at-risk gay youth, male hustlers, and "Johns" as well as the two target groups you mentioned (gay men and IV drug users). The other clarification is that the Sexual Minorities HIV/AIDS Taskforce's endorsement of a lesbian for the position of Executive Director was not just due to fears of homophobia but also because we feel she is the best person for the job. Of course the taskforce's position on the matter is independent of any position Health Awareness may or may not take.

Those of us working in the epidemic in Worcester are saddened by the controversy that has arisen over the "Leatherforce 2000 Incident." The matter was complex and it is premature to prejudge AIDS Project Worcester during a very difficult time of transition for the agency. I am quite sure that APW's commitment to the lesbian and gay community remains strong and this incident will soon be behind us.

Sincerely,  
Jerry Cheney  
Worcester, Mass

## Who-has-it-worse debate

Dear GCN:

I appreciate much of what Michael Bronski had to say in his News Analysis, "Avoiding the Issues" (7-29-8/4/90). I especially needed to be jolted from my unfortunate opinions on gay men and gentrification. However, I must object to the paragraph in which he discusses the gendered component of visibility. Bronski's supposition to the contrary, it is not a fact that men in our culture are always more visible than women and that therefore gay men are always more visible than lesbians.

Visible, identifiable, out lesbians are targets of violence for precisely what Bronski claims protects us -- we are not connected with men. In addition to being outside of the gay male community, lesbians are generally sexually unavailable to men, subjecting us to violence by straight men angered at our inaccessibility to them. Bronski is right in observing that lesbians are targets of the violence that all women in our society are subject to, but that goes without saying. He neglects to take into account that lesbians' experience as women is compounded by homophobic violence, and racial violence for lesbians of color. By only acknowledging our gender, Bronski ignores the multiple

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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oppressions that lesbians face and makes us invisible in our own gay/lesbian community.

There are certainly individual situations in which homophobes are more oblivious to lesbians than to gay men, but gay men remain members of the more privileged gender. Male privilege, admittedly used or rejected in varying degrees, confers some protection to gay men which is never available to lesbians. While gay men obviously take the brunt of antigay backlash, lesbians are feeling its spillover effect in addition to anti-women and anti-lesbian hatred.

I really would rather not engage in a who-has-it-worse debate but I felt compelled to respond to Bronski's glaring lack of sensitivity to the sources of lesbians' vulnerability to violence.

Sincerely,  
Faith Hansen  
Contoocok, N.H.

## "Mixed" to "male"

Dear GCN:

Somehow Joe Peacott missed the point in his letter (published 7/21) in which he decried the "hypocrisy of the protestors" at the Maximum Security "opening" because they have not targetted Crones Harvest, which has all-women events, or because protest co-sponsor Rock Against Sexism has been involved with women-only classes (to demystify music technology for women, the need for which is a result of sexism. I am one of many male members of Rock Against Sexism; obviously Joe Peacott has a different understanding of sexism than the one I and my friends have.)

I was protesting the club because a formerly mixed gay and lesbian bar, using tactics that were in my opinion unprincipled and unfair, "closed" suddenly in order to ditch its female employees and later rehire its men to become a mostly male bar. A friend of mine in L.A. told me on hearing of the event that if such a thing had happened there the community would have closed the place down! I have nothing against more gay male bars, or more lesbian bars; many at the protest made that very clear. But the patrons and workers of any bar deserve fair treatment.

This protest brought out a lot of the unquestioned sexism in the gay male community. One group of gay men very ostentatiously threatened to beat up the protesters if we weren't gone when they came back out of the new club. A little gay bashing, boys? Or just woman-hating? (Is there much difference?)

If Joe were really looking for "consistency" from the protesters, he might have asked us to go no further than down the block, to the Ramrod, which isn't exactly mixed. But I too recognize that men -- myself included -- and women often want to associate with their own kind. Fine, as long as as a group they are not thus taking away the rights of others (to a share of the power, or their own identity and self-expression).

R.A.S. and many other protesters targetted Maximum Security owners for their mistreatment of female employees during their "mixed"-one-month, "male"-the-next profits-before-community underhanded moves. Other establishments in the community that act that way should get similar treatment, equally, and without regard to gender.

Stuart Wamsley, Jr.  
Cambridge, Mass.

## You can say we were rich

Dear GCN:

I didn't get off into the gay life until 1984. I was one of the lucky ones who started out with someone who cared about me and wasn't looking out for just a hit and run. He and I had it hard a lot of times, both of us being gay in prison, but we had each other, so you can say we were rich.

Now we are split up. He is in Auburn (a New York state prison) and I am now in Lewisburg (a federal prison in Pennsylvania). After all this time together we had, now we can't even write to each other.

I would just like to tell him: "E.J." I haven't forgot you, nor will I ever do so. I'll love you always and though we are apart now, we will one day be together again, so stay strong and take care.

Respectfully,  
David Hoover  
28852-054  
Box 1000  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

# Club Antorcha speaks up!

The membership of Club Antorcha condemns the recent acts of violence against gay men in the South End. There is no justification for the brutality of these bloody acts. As a group of Latino-american gay men, we also deplore the apparent involvement of Latino-american youths in these incidents. We call on all concerned community residents to join forces to put an end to this senseless violence before inaction signals condonement and future incidents occur.

In order to solve this problem we must first analyze thoroughly the underlying root causes which trigger these incidents. The complex issues of homophobia, racism, and classism must be examined as well as with all due recognition given to the social realities of the South End. This investigation will provide clues to the nature of the problem(s) as well as guidelines to their solutions. Community residents, neighborhood youths and advocacy groups must meet and openly discuss real concerns as well as mutual fears, perceptions, and stereotypes.

Club Antorcha members can add to this dialogue the valuable perspective of being part of two communities and of having a vested interest in mutual reconciliation. We propose that a plan of action develop from this dialogue which will counter the violence by improving communication, increasing awareness of other's community, promoting respect for diversity, and proposing joint ventures involving neighborhood youths, and the South End's gay community. Finally, Club Antorcha supports any and all

efforts in bringing both communities together, and perhaps be a resource to ascertain facts and curb dangerous rumor-mongering and misunderstanding.

*Club Antorcha is a network of Latino Gay men that seek to advance the understanding of the Latino gay experience, combat homophobia wherever it exists, and promote the well-being of the entire Latino community. For more information, call Orlando Del Valle, at the Latino Health Network, 262-9362.*

Los miembros del Club Antorcha rotundamente condenamos los recientes actos de violencia perpetrados contra miembros de la comunidad "gay" del South End. No hay justificación alguna para la brutalidad de estos sangrientos actos. Siendo la nuestra, una organización de latinos "gay" sentimos profundamente que los atacantes en este caso hayan sido miembros de la comunidad hispana. Apelamos a toda la comunidad para que nos unamos en la lucha contra este tipo de violencia. Es esencial que tomemos parte activa y que no dejemos que la pasividad permita ningún otro acto de violencia de este tipo.

Para poder resolver este problema, debemos primero analizar con cuidado las causas que provocan incidentes de este tipo. La problemática de la homofobia, el racismo y el clasismo debe también ser considerada al igual que reconocer las realidades sociales esperamos nos de pistas sobre la naturaleza

## Gays in prison need more attention

Dear GCN:

I been a reader of GCN for years (8 years) and the GCN is a nice paper for us gays in prison to keep us inform with what's happening in the outside gay world. I think GCN should have a page just for gays in prison so we can tell about the conditions and discrimination and the inhuman treatment gays is going through in these prisons in the United States. Every week when I read GCN I see how gays in prison be speaking on they experiences they going through. Gays in prison need more attention to the problems they facing in these concentration camps. Being in prison is hard as it is, but being gay in prison is extra hard.

Sincerely,  
John ("Boojack") Royal  
117208  
500 Spring St.  
Richmond, VA 23261

## Fighting AIDS in Brasil

Dear GCN:

We complain that GCN vol. 17, no. 39 published an interview about AIDS and Homosexuality (Fighting AIDS in Brasil by Jared Braiterman) without any phrase or word about ATOBA-Homosexual Emancipation Movement or GGB (Gay Group of Bahia).

We think that this interview is incomplete and tendentious, so we elucidate:

The ATOBA is a gay & lesbian group created in Sep. 15, 1985, when a friend of us (a gay) was brutally killed by homophobics; and officialy established in June 28, 1986. Since 1987 we have worked against AIDS through prevention campaigns, where we have been distributing approximately 300,000 condoms freely. On May 20, we established a AIDS hot line.

The GGB is a gay group too, established in 1979, and was the first group in Brasil to work against AIDS through prevention campaigns and free condoms distribution.

So, we would like that GCN correct this situation because we do not understand if Mr. Jared Braiterman had known about our group and our work when he was here in Brasil.

Waiting "News", yours  
Rodolfo Carlos Skarda  
AIDS Coord. Prog.  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## Language of patriarchs

Dear GCN:

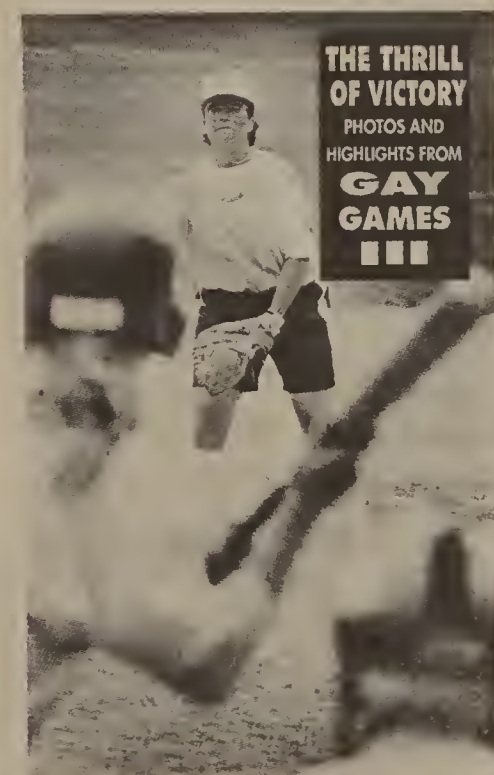
All her philologist friends have probably told Amy Hoffman this by now, but the word "loony" most certainly does not come from the word "loon," as she states in her review of Kate Millett's *The Loony-Bin Trip* (GCN, August 17-31, 1990). According to Webster's New Collegiate, "loony" is a shortened and altered form of "lunatic."

"Lunatic" derives from the Latin *luna*, from the belief that lunacy fluctuated with the phases of the moon. Thus has the language-of the patriarchs equated monthly cycles and madness!

Sincerely,  
Amy McNair  
San Diego, Calif

## CORRECTIONS

Last week's cover photo of lesbian softball players at Gay Games III (pictured) should have been credited to Laura Wulf.



The caption "Team Boston `Swish and Fish' Co-ed" in the centerspread should have read "Team Boston Co-ed `Swish and Fish' Softball."

Also, two sentences were erroneously omitted from Peter Medoff's Gay Games III coverage. The paragraph, in its entirety, should have read:

"The Games - and the city - offered something for every taste. While the event went off with amazingly few glitches, waiting in line often became the order of the day. Long lines greeted visitors to the disco along with virtually every bar throughout the week. A ticket to the sold out Gay and Lesbian Film Festival became a precious commodity. The Gayla Women's Celebration featuring Ferron, Kate Clinton, and Katari Taiko, a Japanese-Canadian drum ensemble, sold out early in the week. Lines could usually be seen in front of many popular restaurants in town. For gay men traveling on the more exotic side of life, there were waits of up to

del problema, al igual que preceptos a guías sobre como solucionarlo.

Residentes, adultos y juvenes, dirigentes de organizaciones y autoridades debemos reunirnos y discutir abiertamente nuestras preocupaciones, dudas, temores y esperanzas.

El Club Antorcha puede contribuir de un modo positivo a este dialogo. Somos hispanos y tambien somos "gay." Como miembros de estas dos comunidades nos es de vital importancia que estos dos mundos coexistan y se comuniquen pacificamente en un ambiente de respeto y cooperacion.

Para esto proponemos que un plan de accion surja de este dialogo cuyo principal objetivo sea luchar contra el prejuicio y la violencia. Debemos reconocer y aceptar nuestra diversidad y la de otros via actividades que promuevan la convivencia harmonica de los diferentes grupos socio-economicos, raciales y culturales que nuestro South End. Finalmente, el Club Antorcha apoya cualquier esfuerzo para traer a las comunidades juntas y quizas podria servir como fuente de informacion que confirme hecho y que desacredite rumores falsos y contraproducentes.

*Club Antorcha es una agrupacion de hombres latinos gay que afirman y promueven su identidad, combaten la homofobia, y promueven al bienestar de toda la comunidad latina. Para mas informacion, favor de llamar a Orlando Del Valle, Latino Health Network, 262-9362.*

four hours for a room at the local baths. And Vancouver's Stanley Park became the cruise-est place on the planet during the week. Still, few people seemed to mind waiting."

We apologize for these production errors.

## HELLO/GOODBYE: FALL PREVIEW

Lenny Goldstein joins the cast of the popular weekly comedy-drama "GCN." Goldstein will play the mysterious character known as "The Promotions Coordinator." The character is described by fellow cast members as "a behind-the-scenes manipulator, the type of person whose job it is to increase the circulation of a popular weekly newspaper." Goldstein is not to be confused with the Leonard Goldstein who plays the regressive newspaper columnist/real estate baron "Thomas J. Jackson" in a New York-based weekly tragi-comedy.

Goldstein replaces the diminutive Margaret Wallace, who played "The Promotions Coordinador" for a year before leaving "GCN." Wallace, who set an off-screen record among "GCN"ers for number of apartment switches in one year, will be missed for her completely black wardrobe and short-lived blonde/shocking pink hairdo. Wallace has taken an internim (sic) job while waiting to be discovered by either (a) a cut-throat Madison Avenue advertising company; or (b) an alternative gothic rock band.

Welcome, Lenny and good luck, Margaret!

## CAN YOU TYPE?

GCN is looking for volunteer temporary typists. If you have free time and skill with a keyboard, could we use you! We're especially interested in people available Monday afternoons, Tuesdays, and Thursday evenings. Be the first queer on your block to read GCN, even before the proofreaders! Contact us right now at 426-4469.



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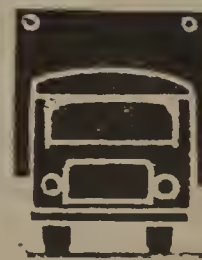
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## Iowa

Continued from page 1

photo of naked children."

Graf also remarked that the arrests made at the festival convinced him that participants had been set up. "What's this with marijuana?" he said. "You could go to any camp and it wouldn't take 50 guys to find some."

As for the child-abuse arrest, Graf said he was skeptical because "all the people involved in alleged incidents were new this year," which increased his suspicion that FBI plants were involved in creating false charges against men at the festival.

According to Michael Currant, of the Iowa Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus, the agents who were attending the festival undercover claim to have seen an adult man having what their described as "consensual" oral sex with a 9-year-old boy at 2 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 25. The boy was one of two at the festival.

"If we're talking about a 9-year-old, there's no such thing as consensual sex under Iowa law," said Currant. He told *GCN* he was skeptical about the incident because the agents did nothing until Sunday morning. "Why did they not immediately intervene? Why did it take about 30 hours to do something?" he asked.

Meanwhile, Graf, who is the godfather of the other boy attending the festival, said police began asking him questions about the child's whereabouts when they arrived, claiming that the boy was "missing." In fact, Graf said, the child had returned home to his parents with Graf's lover. It was a while before he understood what was going on, however, and so, "as any parent would be, I was extremely worried" because he thought something had happened to the child.

As the officers continued asking him questions, Graf said, "I completely broke down. People were holding me up." At that point, he said, "the officers realized they were making a mistake."

### Changing the site

According to Reed, the trouble surrounding the festival began in July, when he and his lover started receiving harassing phone calls from people in Missouri who had found out about the festival, which had been held since its inception in 1981 at Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Mo. Apparently, said Reed, someone had copied the brochure from the festival and distributed it to members of the community near the park.

Although festival organizers already had a permit, Reed said park officials told him that the town was "going to make our lives miserable." At that point, Reed and other organizers began investigating possible alternate sites for the event because they felt that the Missouri location was no longer "a safe environment." About that time, on July 27, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources sent Reed a letter rescinding the permit for the Lake of the Ozarks location, citing park rangers' observations of nudity and one instance of sodomy during past festivals. Festival organizers moved the event to Elkhorn Ranch, which is privately owned, in response.

### Brochure controversy

Observers agree that the wave of harassment and investigation was probably sparked by the content of the festival's brochures. The literature for the event asserts that pre-pubescent girls are welcome to attend with adult male parents or guardians, a provision that organizers said was meant to be read along the lines of the statement at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival barring all men except pre-pubescent boys. According to Currant, however, Iowa authorities assumed that the passage in the brochure was a veiled sexual invitation to girls. Their interpretation of male homosexuality, Currant said, was that "gay men were only sexually interested in young girls."

Another passage in the festival brochure that upset authorities mentions that Iowa does not have anti-sodomy legislation. "It's puzzling to us why that would be of interest to law-enforcement officials," said Currant.

The remaining part of the material to which authorities pointed was the cover of the brochure, which includes a fanciful graphic showing men with their penises exposed. Graf, who distributed the material to mainstream gay organizations and to the state-owned hospital in Iowa City, said he didn't think the picture was obscene or inappropriate for public viewing. "It's very Matisse-like," he said.

### 'My family'

While they do not deny that male-male sex takes place at the festival, those who have attended over the years describe it pri-

marily as a nurturing environment in which, Graf said, "we can be who we are." He added that he considered the men he knew at the festival among his closest relations. "The festival is what I would call my family, or my clan," he said.

Reed described the event as a "supportive non-competitive" gathering, and said the typical day would include workshops on topics ranging from safer sex to political action to giving care to people with AIDS. But Graf and Reed said that nothing went on at the festival to justify the massive police raid. Reed pointed out that Earl Willis, a former Iowa deputy attorney general who was openly gay, attended the festival for three years before he died of AIDS in June 1989.

### 'Outrageous'

Chris Farley, the director of the ICLU, agreed with Graf and Reed that the raid was unjustified, and said the ICLU would be pressing the matter aggressively in court. "We're prepared to go as far as we can to combat the grossly excessive law enforcement practices that took place," she told *GCN*.

Farley also said that the first item the ICLU would be pursuing was the return of the confiscated materials, but that she expected to challenge the legality of the search warrant that led to the raid, and perhaps to take broader civil rights action. "It's so outrageous that it's difficult to know how best to challenge it," said Farley.

At the most basic level, she continued, the ICLU is skeptical about the communications that led to the raid, whatever their source. "We doubt the information provided to the law enforcement officers was accurate," said Farley, "but even if the information was accurate, we doubt if it warranted a search of this scope and sweep."

Farley added that she could not think of a raid of similar proportions in recent Iowa history. "It's a new one on us," she said.

filed from Boston

## P'town

Continued from page 1

been issued for her arrest.

Meads defended the officers at the scene who arrested Vanilla, saying they were unaware that the car on which she had stuck the plunger belonged to friends.

The riot comes only a week after police arrested two ACT UP/Provincetown members when they shouted back at a group of young men who were heckling and gay-baiting them. The two, Eric Kendrick and Paul deRenzis, were waiting outside a Board of Selectmen meeting Aug. 27, where deRenzis planned to request support for a petition calling on district attorney Phillip Rollins to aggressively prosecute gay-bashers.

According to deRenzis, the group of men made obscene suggestions about what Kendrick and deRenzis did with their dog and threatened them with physical violence. Kendrick then shouted that they should leave him and deRenzis alone. As Kendrick and deRenzis left, a police officer stopped them, threw Kendrick against a wall and handcuffed him. DeRenzis told *GCN* that when he tried to explain to the officer what had happened, the officer arrested him as well. Both were given disorderly persons charges, and Kendrick was charged additionally with interfering with an arrest.

Meads told *GCN* that while it was clear deRenzis and Kendrick were being harassed by the group of men outside City Hall, they should have summoned a police officer rather than deal with the situation themselves.

Meads also said that he believes the police officers behaved properly in all the arrest incidents. "They made arrests based on what they saw," he said. "They had no way of knowing what had happened before."

"They are being very quick to pull out the handcuffs," countered deRenzis. "There is a pattern of police ineptitude and failure to assess situations."

A demonstration was scheduled for the evening of Sept. 5 to protest recent police actions.

filed from Boston

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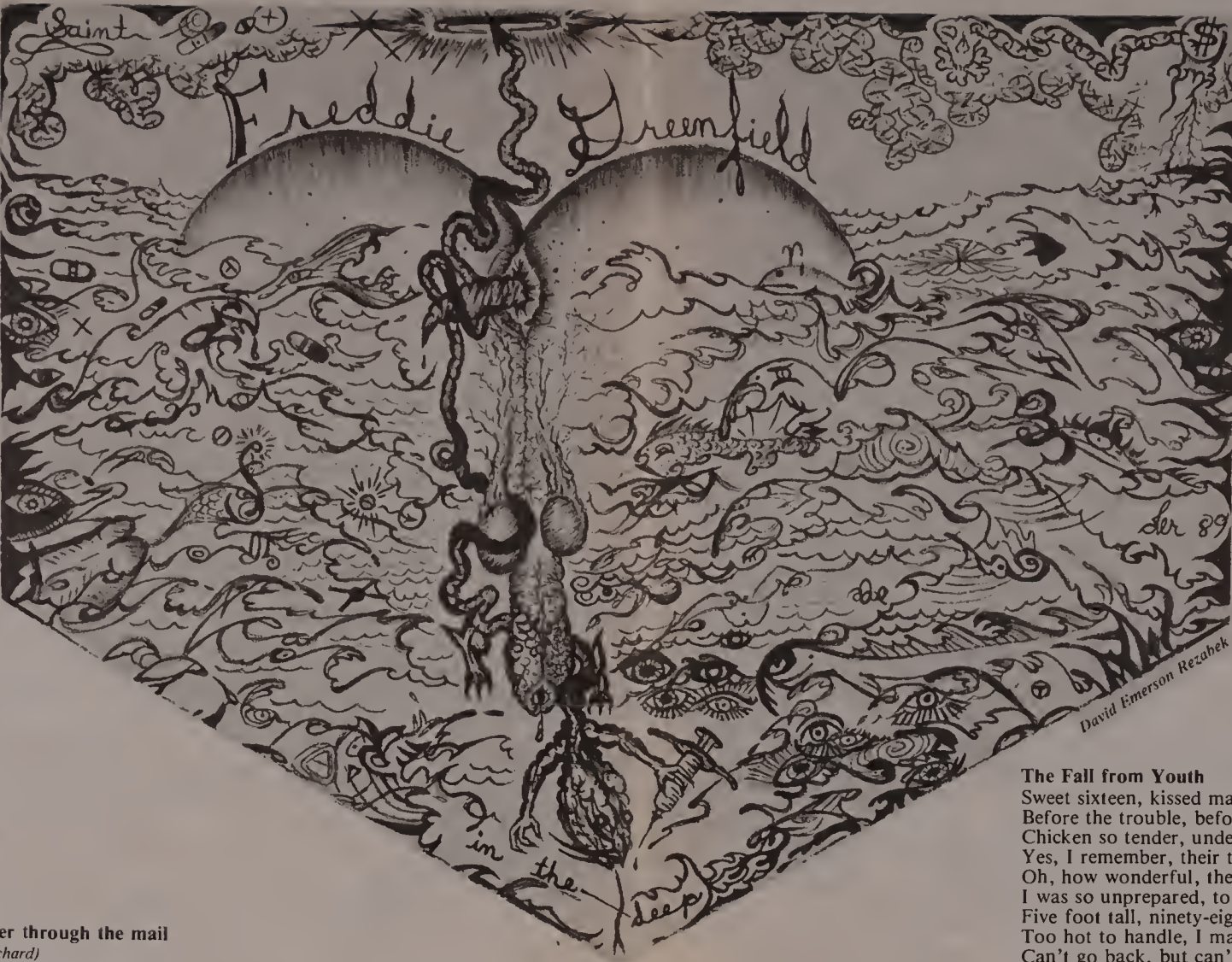
Freedom, what is freedom?

I can hardly believe this, but here is our EIGHTH annual spread of poems and artwork by gay men and lesbians in prison who read GCN weekly. These spreads, together with the weekly 'Prisoners Seeking Friends' penpal/information space, and the regular letters from prisoners in 'Community Voices' are part of a dialogue that the Prisoner Project wants to support among all of us in our various forms of cages and 'criminalities'.

We all have different kinds of experience with the laws, attitudes and other 'forces' that control our personal/-political lives. Some of our attitudes about prisoners/'criminals' are as lacking in direct experience and information as are the bigoted attitudes of those about us toward gay men and lesbians. These poems and images give flesh to some of our impoverished stereotypes about prisoners and crime. (Many thanks to the prisoners who sent in poetry and drawings that just didn't fit.)

For more 'flesh'(contact) with these and other prisoners of our community, see the 'Prisoners Seeking Friends' space weekly in the paper.

Mike Riegle  
Prisoner Project



It's me  
It's me—I've been made to look  
The Villain, Fool?  
She said she liked me.  
She liked to play games.  
She liked

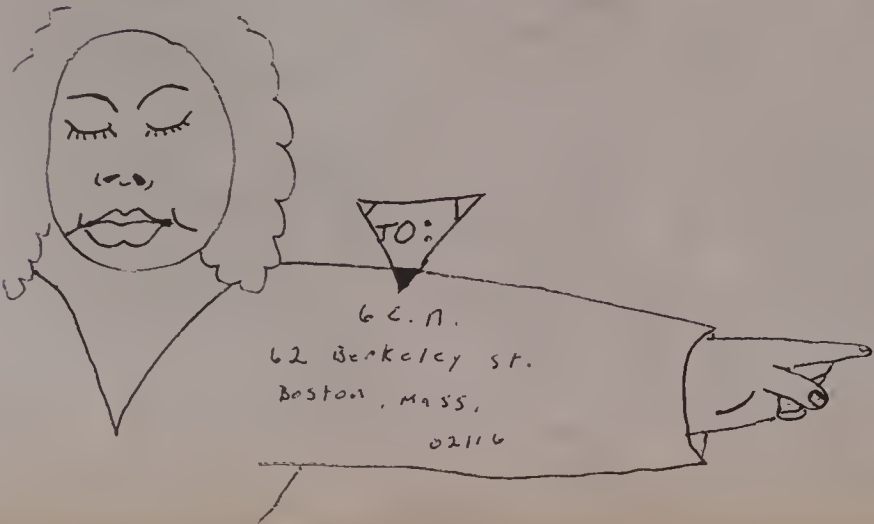
to tease  
I was warned. I observed.  
I saw it.  
And then I had  
to face it.  
She was  
Trouble.  
Cute, 'young' and  
confused.  
I should've known  
better  
Realizing, where I am  
& how minor incidents  
can become  
Major Catastrophes.  
For me this is it  
Segregation  
A cubicle of my own  
and for what?  
Her?

Brenda Taylor



Gena Spero

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Now you may continue.  
Vernon Beal



Older woman is my kind of girl

She is 10 years older than I  
When I began landing my eyes on her  
I seen she has class.  
Making my move on her  
I didn't want to be friends first  
With her I wanted to be her lover.  
Being round her make my heart race.  
I get work up inside, feel 21 again.  
I'm 35. I do the coming on.  
I know my stuff.  
There would be one way she would  
Wear her hair that send my emotion wild.  
What I want to do is whole her close to me.  
Her perfume she wear bring out the beast in me.  
She is my kind of lady.  
Being round me she is free to feel sweet 16.  
She let me say silly things and laugh at them,  
Not thinking that I'm just some baby still  
Cause I'm 10 years younger than her.

One day I had told her of some ups and downs  
I had been having. I said, people always saying to me  
'Hang in there'. I'm hanging in there, so I tell her'  
I'm about to hang myself sometimes, hanging in there,  
and, it's the way I said it, that made her laugh.  
I felt good to know I could make her laugh.  
She is sexy by carrying herself as a real lady.  
I miss hearing her voice, seeing her face  
From time to time. There are times I broke down and cried.  
Wanting to be round her. I'm still in love with her.  
Happy Birthday Mrs. G. It's November your B-day month.  
Wish you many more.  
Ruby Johnson



L.C. Mueller

A lover through the mail

(To Richard)

They tell me it's foolish  
to love someone who  
will never feel my touch,  
but I'm hooked on him, and  
choose to be the clay  
on his potter's wheel,  
anything to feel a part  
of his touch.  
As to his age, it means  
twice as much love, enough  
that I can feel it  
even through the mail.

Vernon Maulsby

Acts of Friendship

(for GCN: the readers and staff)

Acts of weekly friendship from afar  
to tell someone you care.  
It's loving GCN's way-of-joy  
to steadfast say they're there.  
It's reaching out across the miles  
to fill those empty voids,  
They're trying to mend the shattered dreams  
and hearts that man's destroyed.  
Acts of friendship such as this  
Give a voice to dormant minds  
So to loving GCN I give my thanks,  
for being such good friends.

Ronald Smith

Till Tuesday

They come fully prepared, quicksand and pirhana egoes  
the skulls costumed with the skin of love and need.  
Dinner will be served, the main course will be me,  
and no one's hunger will be appeased.  
When survival turns on the axes of emptiness, all offerings  
go unrecognized, and as the pain of my useless love  
settles into my aching heart, I look up.  
With blazing eyes, he says, 'I promise to love you eternally  
till next Tuesday.'

William Elliott

Sisterhood is Powerful

Brenda has one cigarette, and shares it  
with a woman she's never seen before,  
who sits on her bedroll,  
abscesses freshly bandaged,  
thin  
and shaken.

Sisterhood is powerful.

Lurinda brags she's hard, won't give  
away a thing without a trade. But she's  
the first to slide  
into the cell next door  
to see that the new arrival, withdrawing  
has what she needs  
to get her through the sickness.

Sisterhood is powerful.

And I, the communist, have learned  
to give not just the easy things  
but the hard,  
to give what I didn't think  
I had enough of,  
to give of myself,  
the only commodity left to me.

You'd have to see it to believe  
how sisterhood is powerful.

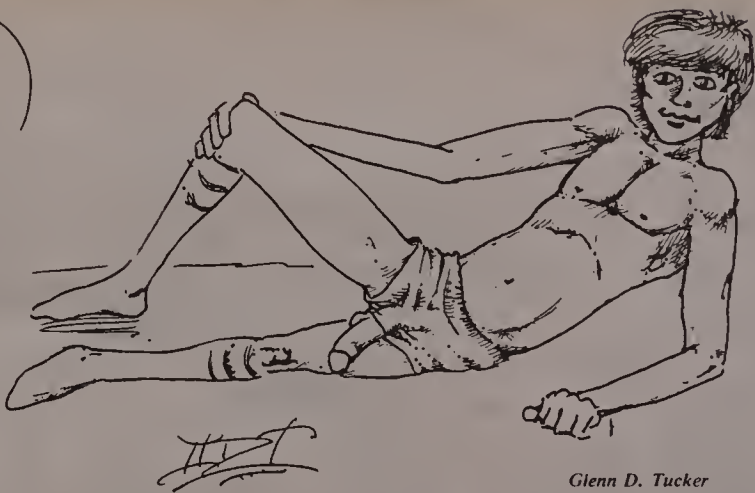
Laura Whitehorn

The Fall from Youth

Sweet sixteen, kissed many times.  
Before the trouble, before the crimes.  
Chicken so tender, under the hand.  
Yes, I remember, their touches so grand.  
Oh, how wonderful, the center of it all.  
I was so unprepared, to take the fall.  
Five foot tall, ninety-eight pounds.  
Too hot to handle, I made the rounds.  
Can't go back, but can't move ahead.  
Living in the shadow, of youth long dead.  
Cruise me, missuse me, as long as you're there.  
Show me the way, take me back where...  
Back to the time, before the fall,  
Back to the years, when I had them all.  
The body has aged, with the passing of time.  
But I can still be chicken, here in my mind.

Maurice D. Lewis

P.S. (Just a Quicker,  
Pardon my lack of  
Proportion)



Glenn D. Tucker

Fairytale Men

They tell you they love you  
Make you think it's true  
Swear up and down  
They're loyal and oh so blue,  
and while your eyes are closed  
thinking about what they've said,  
they're jumping up and down  
in another Ho's bed...  
Listen to me girls, we must be strong.  
There's no future in a world  
where the men do wrong.  
(Some girls like this shit,  
What can I say!)

But I know the real, that's behind the rap,  
and believe me honey, it aint about crap.  
We long for a real love  
not a lie for the day  
and these dudes will lie in a second  
to cop a piece of lay.  
So guard your heart, your morals too,  
for they'll take your love, use it like a tool.  
You'll think it's real. They'll swear it's true,  
but in real life, girl, they wouldn't spit on you.  
Now behind those walls of steel and concrete  
there's lots of I-love-you's, but few  
that's for real...

Jackie Johnson

Who'd a think it?

Who'd a think a fool like me  
could find the words  
to speak such truth?

Who'd a think the words would come  
to such a seeming evil one?

But words no matter how contrived  
will always find those who've survived,

Whether winners, or losers  
or those who never fought

the words come thru in unguarded thought

To those who are willing to raise up their pen  
the words will flow through them again and again.

So use all of the words that will flow through you  
and if you don't like this piece, then just  
screw you.

Bernard Bailey

Shifting Shadows

The daylight hours are hardest of all  
when you live in a world of dreams;  
the harsh, cold light of day is not  
conducive to dreaming it seems.  
That's why when I wake each morning,  
I look forward to the coming night,  
for it's only then, at the end of day,  
that my fantasies leap and take flight.  
Only in a make-believe, storybook world  
are you here when I need you with me;  
it's only then things turn out the way  
that I always felt they should be.  
Chances I missed don't pass by me again,  
some things that I said, I don't say.  
Things that should have been said, and weren't,  
are easily spoken at the end of day.  
Only in the fantasy world of my dreams  
does the love that we shared seem real;  
only in darkness can I look in your eyes  
and tell you the way that I feel.  
Only in a world of shifting shadows  
can things ever again come my way.  
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Tao (Ted Cole)

...a prisoner inside myself.



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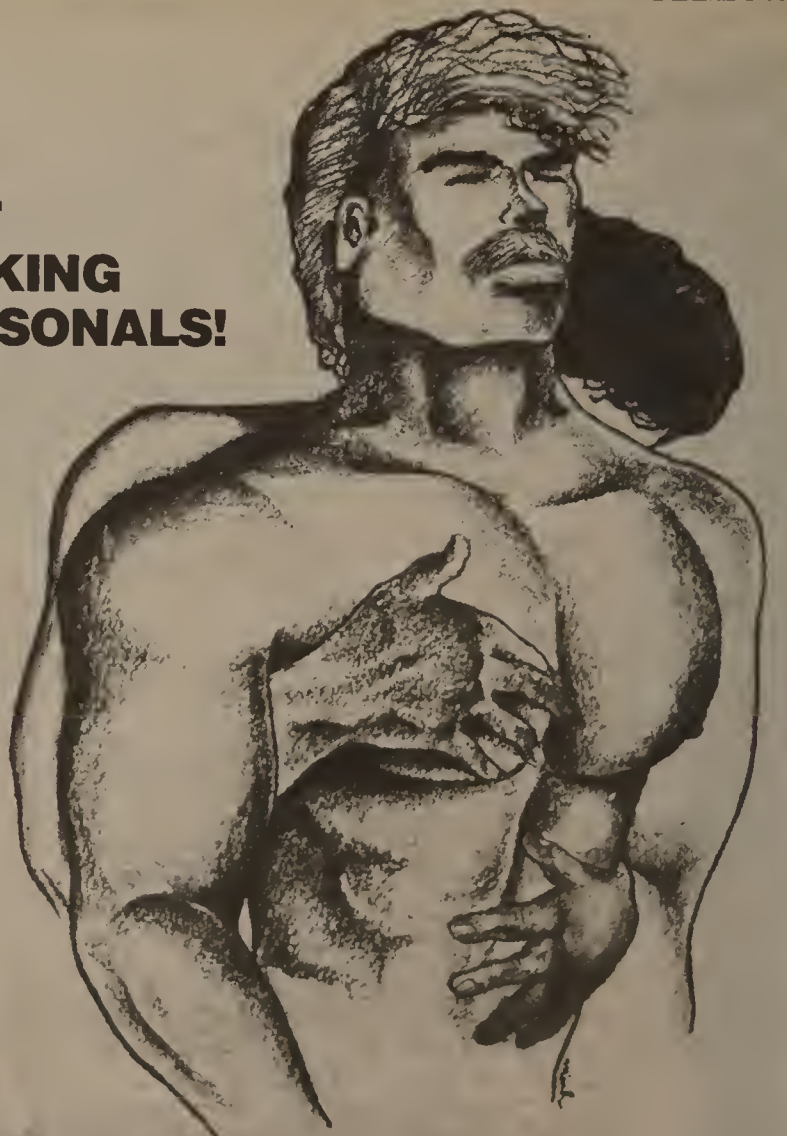
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From Isaacs Julien's "looking for Langston"

## Festival

Continued from backpage

survivor and his attitude is refreshingly not American — with his shot glass full of some hard whiskey sitting in front of him, which he clumsily knocks over, muttering something about how it's only one more tragedy among many. There is something very unpuritan about this scene.

There are a few strange moments in *Viva Eu!*, like when the camera pans slowly over some of Braga's drawings (all portraying people under mosquito netting — art mimicking life?) or outdoor gardens in Barcelona (he had to move to that city, apparently to get away from some heavy AIDS discrimination in Sao Paulo) or tilts eerily down through the mosquito netting, while the woman narrator refers to him in the past tense. When the camera is on him, Braga is very much alive, so it is somewhat confusing as to why Cypriana chooses to have these pensive, somber shots and to discuss Braga as if he were no longer with us. I can only wonder whether the director intends for us to reflect on his potential death or whether she is trying to force us to confront our own assumptions about someone who has been living with AIDS for so long and has an advanced case of KS (at one point, in a decidedly non-American and liberating move, he is shown totally naked in all of his speckled splendor).

One of the only explicitly lesbian-themed films I screened (though there are several at the festival) was a sweet but naive film by Aarin Burch called *Dreams of Passion*, in which one Black woman fantasizes while rehearsing in a dance studio, engaged in an ethereal, erotic dance under a billowing parachute tent with another Black woman. Most noteworthy about this film is the fact that this may be the first time people have seen two Black women kiss on screen (Did Celie and Shug kiss in *The Color Purple*?).

The last two films I screened comprise what could be called the "lapsed-Catholic" portion of the program. Christine Vachon's *Way of the Wicked* is less-convincingly critical of the Catholic Church than Robert Hilferty's *Stop the Church*. *Way of the Wicked* is a somewhat slick production that seems to be about two women who rescue Catholics after they sin, or at least they rescue this one Catholic, a little girl at her first Holy Communion after she defies the nun's warning to "never, never take the wafer out of your mouth." The reason I consider it less convincing is because the ending is quite unclear. When the girl takes the wafer out of her mouth it drops to the floor, covered in blood, and blood begins to spout out of her mouth onto her white dress. This is a very dramatic image, but it lends some kind of credence to the belief that the wafer is actually Christ's body. Is this Vachon's intent?

Hilferty's film is an extremely effective "documentary" (experimental documentary?) about ACT UP's controversial demonstration at St. Patrick's Cathedral last winter. For the most part, I am no fan of AIDS-activist films, I usually find them doctrinaire and self-glorifying, with the same footage of the same demonstrations and the same people being interviewed, saying the same things. *Stop the Church* signifies to me, the coming of age of AIDS-activist film; it is thorough, well conceived, funny and to the point. Hilferty has shot amazing footage from the inception and planning of this action all the way to the actual "die-in" inside the cathedral. Some of the person-on-the-street comments are priceless. If you never see any other AIDS activist films, see this one.

If this festival is any indication, and I think it is, there are some very exciting films coming from lesbian and gay artists. If you don't happen to be among the blessed of New York, it might be worth it to try and bring some of these films to your town. □

## Florida

Continued from page 1

voters.) He added that the defeat "confirmed [the] traditional wisdom" in civil rights politics that it is hopeless to take an unpopular cause to the public instead of the legislature.

In addition, said Buchman, lesbians and gay men in Broward politics were already planning for future efforts. He said he was helping outline ideas for a gay political action committee, and that plans for monthly voter registration drives were in the works.

As for Broward's human rights ordinance, Terl said he thought lesbian and gay activists would begin to explore other political avenues, such as legislative lobbying or, in the case of the rights ordinance, fighting within the judicial system. "If we can't change the Broward County Human Rights Act itself, then perhaps we need to go at it in the courts," he said.

### 'Visibility is the key'

"They lost one battle, but they've certainly not lost the war," said Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Bray, who flew down to Broward from Washington to participate in the last stages of the campaign, told GCN that the effort "was one of the most amazing things I've ever taken part in." He added that attending the party after the vote "made me proud to be gay. People were jumping up and down, hugging, giving each other high-fives. No one was bitter."

Bray agreed with Terl and Buchman that lesbian and gay politics in Broward County have been permanently altered by the campaign. Although "we didn't understand how deep the contempt and hatred is against gay people" in Florida, he said, the effort permanently raised the profile of the gay community in the area — an important after-effect because "visibility is the key that will unlock the closet door."

In the end, said Bray, he was certain the defeat was actually a kind of beginning in Florida's lesbian and gay politics. The most frequent assertion he heard while there, he said, was, "we will be back."

filed from Boston

## Burroughs

Continued from page 3

(DPH). If the company believes that trade secrets that could be used by a competitor are threatened by the release of the protocol, the agreement preserves the right of the drug manufacturer to obtain a restraining order halting the release of the document.

Additionally, DPH agreed that as a matter of policy, the agency did not systematically review drug-trial protocols unless they were conducted by a for-profit institution or in a non-institutional setting.

Burroughs-Wellcome spokespeople, who represented the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association during the negotiations, said they were satisfied with the agreement. "This proposed regulation and policy will help protect competitive information while meeting the information needs of patients and advocates," said Dorothy Keville of Burroughs-Wellcome. "By working together, we have been able to come up with a process which supports the needs and interests of all concerned with finding treatments for many diseases."

"If the company is satisfied, I have no problem with the agreement," said Denise McWilliams of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), who defended ACT UP in a lawsuit filed by Burroughs-Wellcome over the release of a drug protocol involving infants at Boston City Hospital. (The case was eventually dismissed).

### The process

Negotiations between drug companies and AIDS activists were initiated by Cynthia Gilles, the governor's senior advisor on AIDS policy. "This is the happiest thing I've done in the state house," said Gilles, "I'm tickled pink."

Gilles, who had urged Governor Dukakis to veto the bill if it passed the legislature, decided to try to bring the two sides together because, she said, if drug companies and people with AIDS are "doing battle, they are diverting attention, time, and money" from the effort to find a cure for AIDS. She added that as a "proud parent" of a member of the lesbian and gay community, she felt a particular urgency to resolve this dispute.

Participants in the negotiations included the DPH, ACT UP/Boston, Mass. Law Reform, GLAD, CRINE, Burroughs-Wellcome, the Pharmaceutical

Continued on page 12





ELLEN SHUB

(l to r) Gilles, CRINE's Busby and Keville of Burroughs Wellcome

## Burroughs

Continued from page 11

Manufacturers Association, and Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Busby said that while the first several meetings were "contentious," both sides became increasingly invested in reaching an agreement as time went on. He added that the end result was the possibility of a better working relationship in the future. "It's not like the cold war has ended," said Busby, "but we did find we could work together sometimes on some things. I think they realized that people with AIDS and their advocates had a legitimate perspective."

Busby added that CRINE has applied to Burroughs-Wellcome for a \$40,000 grant. "Pharmaceutical companies are making a lot of money off this disease. With resources to fight AIDS getting so scarce, we need to begin the process of getting pharmaceuticals to reinvest those profits."

While the two sides concurred on scrapping the legislation, differences remain which could again flare into open battle. The agreement does not resolve the issue of whether protocols can contain trade secrets. Burroughs-Wellcome spokesperson Kathy Bartlett told *GCN* that in some cases, the trial design itself could be a trade secret that the company would want to protect in court.

ACT UP, in contrast, said in a statement that drug companies have yet to demonstrate that a protocol can contain proprietary information. □

## Michigan

Continued from page 3

Francisco area, the Differently Pleasured Networking workshops drew between 80 and 200 women each day. The boycott was called in response to a policy statement by Michigan organizers that "certain activities" organized by the S/M community would not be permitted at the event (see *GCN*, Aug. 12-18, 1990).

S/M lesbians bitterly lampooned the policy as they found ways to circumvent it. In the words of several S/M lesbians who spoke to *GCN* on the condition of anonymity, there was no S/M campsite, but there were "individual S/M campers camping near other individual S/M campers." There were no officially organized "play parties," but if someone stopped by and asked the "individual S/M campers," they could tell you where women might go "roaming" that night.

"Roaming" meant moving far from the center of festival activities. "It's practically off the land," complained one S/M lesbian. "We come here to be with other women and do what we do and they drive us to the edges of our community." Women also complained that because play parties were out in the woods, they were inaccessible to women with disabilities.

The "Lesbian Separatist Space" banner, accompanied by a smaller "This is sado-masochism-free space" sign, did not escape sardonic comment. "We can't hang a banner that says 'S/M camping,' because it would be 'intimidating' to other women," another S/M lesbian told *GCN*, "but they can do anything they want. Let's talk about selective enforcement" of the festival policy that prohibited any group from "taking over" communal areas.

Then, Saturday evening, shortly before that night's concert, an unmarked private plane flew low over the land, dropping

leaflets. On its first pass, it dropped leaflets in the swamp. "At first, I thought it was Christian fundamentalists, and I was glad when they went into the swamp," said Boston lesbian Donna Albino.

On its return, the plane dropped flyers in the main area of the festival. The leaflet contained reproductions of articles from *GCN* and *The Advocate* describing the S/Mers' boycott, as well as a letter from the Berkeley S/M women's support group, the Outcasts, criticizing the festival policy forbidding organized S/M activity.

Another major event, also on Saturday, was a March Against Racism on the Land. The demonstration was organized by women of color in response to concerns of Indian women about the widespread sale of crystals and adornments containing feathers and other symbols from traditional Native American cultures. Indian women passed out a statement criticizing the interest the New Age movement has sparked among white feminists in selling objects and books supposedly celebrating traditional Indian spirituality.

"White so-called feminists, unwilling to give up their romanticized views of Indians, and despite the protestations from the Indian community, continue to buy what they see as Indian spirituality," reads the position paper, written by Andrea Smith and distributed at the National Women's Studies Conference. "The result of this new age craze is nothing less than spiritual and cultural genocide for the Indian people. Our spirituality is not for sale."

White craftswomen responded angrily to the march, which wound through the craft area and included stops at booths containing material identified by protesters as exploitative. "It was adopting the tactics of tyranny," said craftswoman Chris Rivers. "We should have had the opportunity to dialogue."

Rivers sells her partner's paintings, which depict women of various races, many wearing headbands, against natural backdrops from a "pre-patriarchal" time. "Our goal," she said, "is to represent the Amazon nation in all our diversity. These are incredibly difficult issues — how do we figure out what we've stolen from a culture and what we've assimilated?"

"I'm not the oppressor," said Wanda Henderson, who uses feathers on the earrings she makes. "Why must I always be the target? We're drawing from all cultures."

Because of the angry response from craftswomen, Indian women posted an announcement in the Women of Colors tent that said they were not necessarily interested in discussing the event with white women, and directed women who wished to talk about the protest to white women staffing a nearby table. One staffer, Leigh Welper of Minnesota's Lesbians Against Imperialism group, said she was pleased with the response to the protest. "It's brought the issue up," she said. "Women are excited."

While a rainstorm Saturday night sent many women hurrying home early, most lasted through Sunday night's Casselberry and Dupree concert before leaving this "exploration and celebration of womyn's culture and community," in the words of the festival brochure. □

## Klan

Continued from page 3

ship since its heyday in the late '70s," said Dr. C.T. Vivian of the Center for Democratic Renewal and Education in Atlanta, some KKK affiliates "remain a dangerous, anti-democratic force still [using] violence to harass and intimidate their perceived enemies." Vivian also warned that the Klan represents only 25 percent of active organized white supremacists.

The Sept. 2 march was "nothing more than an attempt by an organization whose numbers are dwindling for some much-needed publicity," said Beth Boyd of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala.

"It's a desperate act of survival," agreed Stephen Matz of the Anti-Defamation League in Atlanta.

APC links the Klan's "recent resurgence" to the "racist, sexist, anti-worker offensive" started by the Reagan presidency and carried over during George Bush's two years in office. The group charged that the Klan's rally was "nothing more than a racist provocation" symbolic to a period of racism, sexism, homophobia, and attendant violence that has escalated nationwide and been "given the green light by the Reagan and Bush administrations." □

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Anthony DeMarta, 87A 5775  
Box 51, Comstock NY 12821  
Craig Smith, Box 94949,  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
William Elliott, PO Box 45099,  
Florence AZ 85232  
Vernon Beal, 156561  
Box 900, Jeff City MO 65102

Just a few lines to say I like to read, watch TV, and listen to all kinds of music, and would like to write to someone out there for friendship. Larry LYNN, EG-248457, 10B-126, 3001 Gordon Hwy, Grovetown GA 30813.

I love your newspaper very much and hope you keep them coming. I'm a drag queen and interested in meeting someone for friendship/love. Please send photo if you can. Eddie SUTLE, 044560, 24-09, Box 333, Raiford FL 32083.  
Dear BRIAN REYNOLDS, Always remember "Never say goodbye". I'll see you in 1992. Keep smiling, babe!! Love, JOHNNY

## MOVERS

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Sweet, young, sexy, GF, doing time needs to hear from dominate females. I know my true love is out there somewhere. Please find me. I need you. Barby ORR, Box 7007, Carson City NV 89702

I'm a 27 yr old dominant female looking for sincere females. My interests are football, dancing, lifting weights and camping. Lois WHITE, B151976, Box 453, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024



I am looking for an outside friend. Someone who values a longterm friendship. Age is no barrier. I'm 31, considered handsome and value honesty. Your photo gets mine. Gerald MISTICH, BC-0933, RD 3, Box 500, Hunlock Creek PA 18621..

Looking for someone out there to write to. I am a very lonely person. Please let's become friendly. (I can't write other prisoners) Mel HEMP-HILL, D-98156, SHU C7-214, Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95532.

I'm a bisexual (masculine), Black male, 31, and have been enjoying your paper for a year now. I would like to know how I can ask for one of your readers to become penpals with me? Please keep up the good work! S. Casper HILL, 174-817, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Seeking GM friend, not handouts. No games. Am sincere, intelligent, handsome, unattached and waiting for your letter. Albert PAUL, 111505, MB 286, PO Box 1500, Cross City FL 32628

BM, getting out in 1992, would like to have some help developing parole plan. Looking for a friend to help me find a work situation. It would be good for us to become friendly while I'm still inside. Thank you for your help. Rodney GEORGE, N38227, Box 711, Menard IL 62259.

I am a gay person and I have been for 8 years now. I'm looking for someone to be my penpal and to write me. Anyone who writes me, I will write back, whether you're in prison or not. Joe Anthony PIERCE, 545855, Rt 1 Box 150, Tenn. Colony TX 75861.

I'm 33, very lonely and would like to have someone to share my life with. I love to write and will answer all. Would especially like to meet someone in this (NC) area. Jerry BROWN, 10157-50, 977 Camp Rd, Salisbury NC 28145.

I'd like to write a man who'd like to build a lasting friendship. Interests include reading, writing, sports, movies, good conversation and more! Healthy, imaginative and open. Please write. James KENNEDY, A-908135, (11-2005), Box 628, Lake Butler FL 32054.

I'm 37 and looking for bisexual women and men to write to me. I can write other prisoners and can get mail from other prisoners. So please write. Fred WHITT, 53160, 2605 State St, Salem OR 97310.

I am Gay and have been for about 15 years. I'm 30 now and I'd like to have my name in your newspaper for a friend. Thank you for your time. Marvin BANISTER, 103881, Box 514, Granite OK 73547.

I'm gay and interested in meeting a penpal thru your program. I'm Black, and like outdoors activities, dancing, travel, and meeting new people. Michael EDDINGTON, 473408, 2800 Gravier St, New Orleans LA 70119.

I am very lonely and gay in this camp where there are very few gay people and I don't have anyone to talk to or be writing. Please put my name in your paper and I will write anyone that will write me. I like music, rock, western, pop, and gospel. I like reading, playing cards and some games. I'm doing time for something where no one was hurt. Elijah SMITH, 182-321, box 4571, Lima OH 45802.

Habitual gay pedophile seeks mail from the 'outside'. I am in therapy for my 'addiction'. Any mail that contains references to pedophilia will be disposed of. (Harold W. Smithson, please write as I lost your address). Mark BEHRING, Box 94949 (5-3-1), Lincoln NE 68509.

I'd like to find a penfriend. I'm 37, Mexican-American, into C&W, leather work, motorcycles and weightlifting. I'm gay but keep a low profile on it here. Herbert DIAZ, C-86543, Box 1902-B, IC-209L, Tehachapi CA 93581.

GM, 32, look 25, seeks real relationship with someone on the outside. Enjoy most sports, motorcycles, fishing, camping, quiet nights in a lover's arms. Sexually I'm Gr.Pass, Fr.Act.&Pass. Will relocate for love. Rick FROBETER, 873216, Box 30, Pendleton IN 46064.



# CALENDAR

**Boston • Queer Nation Fundraiser.** Dinner at Downtown Cafe. 3-course dinner beverages extra. 12 La Grange St. (behind Buddies) 5-10pm \$10 donation (\$9.50 goes to Queer Nation). Don't miss this opportunity to find out more about Queer Nation. For more info 338-7037

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings and put each event on a separate sheet. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows. We regret that we cannot print every submission. No phone calls, please!

## 8 SATURDAY

**Boston • Girth & Mirth Club of NE:** Touch or Go Down Social. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: Dennis 387-0762 or Rick 846-8442.

**Boston • PrideTime (formerly Gay Boston):** "Celebration 90: The Vancouver Gay Games"-with Jim Voltz. The inside perspective. Boston cable channels A3 and A8. 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

## 9 SUNDAY

**Cambridge • Men Of All Colors Together Presents Byron Rushing** (candidate for Representative 9th Suffolk Dist.). Free food. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 1 to 5 p.m. Info: George 266-4378.

**Boston • Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain Potluck/Barbecue.** Bring food to grill and/or share and a nonalcoholic beverage. 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Info: 524-8070.

## 10 MONDAY

**Newton • Lesbian School Teachers/ Administrators Potluck.** 6:30 p.m. Info and directions: 492-1822.

**Boston • Ballroom Dance for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends.** 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.: Lambada and Dirty Dancing (beginner, level 1). 8:15 to 9:30 p.m.: Swing Intensive (beginner, level 1). Weekly: week 1 of 3. UMass Boston, 621 Stuart Street. Info: 859-9455.

**Boston • Gay Men Considering Parenting.** Introductory panel and discussion. 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. FCHC, 338 Newbury St. 2F. Wheelchair accessible; ASL interpretation on request. See also Ongoing Mondays. Info: 267-0900.

**Boston • National Ass'n of Social Workers Comm. on Gay and Lesbian Issues.** Mass. Chapter Welcome Back Pizza Party. Social workers and social work students invited. Info and carpooling: Meryl 964-3448. To get onto mailing list: 227-9635 days.

**Boston • Queer Nation Fundraising Dinner.** At Downtown Cafe. 12 La Grange St. 5-10pm. \$10 donation. For more info 338-7037.

**Boston • Center Lecture Committee Planning Meeting.** All welcome to plan and implement the Center's lecture series. 8 p.m. Room 202K, the Center, 338 Newbury Street. Info: 247-2927.

## 11 TUESDAY

**Boston • Boston Gay Men's Chorus Auditions.** First tenors and basses particularly encouraged. 7 to 10 p.m. First Baptist Church, 110 Comm. Ave. Also 9/11. Appointments: 247-BGMC.

**Cambridge • Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz Lessons for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends** (beginner, Level 1). Weekly: week 2 of 4. YMCA at Central Sq., 820 Mass. Ave. 8 to 9 p.m. Info: 859-9455.

## 12 WEDNESDAY

**Boston • Downtown Lesbian Brown Bag Lunch in the Park.** Meet at 12:30. Info: Julie 725-3562.

**Boston • National Leather Association Meeting.** 6 to 10 p.m. Room 202K, the Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

**Boston • MGLPC Monthly Membership Meeting.** (MGLPC = Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.) 6:30 p.m. Arlington Street Church (use the Boylston St. entrance).

**Salem • "The Politics of Outing."** An informal discussion sponsored by North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance. Bring a beverage and munchies to share. 7 p.m. 11 Dalton Parkway. Info: (508) 745-3848.

**Boston • Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain Dinner at Doyle's.** Look for the Neighbors in the rear of the center room. 7:30 p.m. Doyle's, Washington Street, J.P. Info: 327-5669.

**Boston • Stand Up For Your Love Rights.** Part of the FCHC Living Well Series. 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. 332 Newbury St. Info: Paul 267-0900.

**Boston • See the back page for full details about United Fruit Co.'s Gala 5th Anniversary Bash!**

## 13 THURSDAY

**Boston • "Wholistic Health as a Way of Life."** A general view of the FCHC Wholistic Health series, focusing on concepts of balance and energy flow and their effect on health. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon St., 7th fl. 6 to 8 p.m. \$5. Info and registration: 267-0900.

**Jamaica Plain • Ballroom Dance for Lesbians, Gay Men and Friends.** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz (beginner, level 1). 7:30 to 8:30

p.m.: Cha Cha, Mambo, and Samba (beginner, level 1); 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tango, Rumba, and Merengue (beginner, level 2). Weekly: week 2 of 4. Firehouse Arts Center, 659 Centre St. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info: 859-9455.

## 14 FRIDAY

**Boston • AIDS Awareness Training.** An intro to AIDS and AIDS-related issues, including a medical presentation, people with AIDS speaking of their experiences, and an intro to AIDS Action Committee. Info: Giulia Norton 437-6200 x269.

**Vermont • Long Trail Backpack.** Chiltern Mt. Club. Challenging hiking beginning in Wallingford Gulf Road: 9/14, 15 and 16. Info: Mike (603) 6447658.

**Waltham • WOW Fall Potluck.** (WOW = Way Out in Waltham.) 7:30 p.m. Food assignments and directions: Joanne or Connie 894-2406.

**Boston • The Center Film Series: "Parting Glances."** 1986 breakthrough film about gay relationships in the era of AIDS. 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

## 15 SATURDAY

**Salem • North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance Community Potluck Dinner.** Bring a main dish (last name A-F), salad or vegetable (G-L), appetizer (M-R), or dessert (S-Z). Grace Church, 385 Essex Street. 6:30 p.m. Info: (508) 745-3848.

**Boston TV • PrideTime Travels: "Gay Key West Revisted"** with Jim Voltz and Cynthia Pape. Boston cable channels A3 and A8. 7:30 p.m.

**Henniker, NH • Fall Dance.** The NH Citizens' Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights. Cash bar, DJ. \$6. Pat's Peak. 7:30 p.m.

**Boston • Catie Curtis and Kathy Phipps at Obsessions.** Wheelchair accessible. 132 Portland St., near North Station. Info: 523-4725.

## 16 SUNDAY

**Marlboro • WOBBLES apple picking in Ashby.** (WOBBLES = West of Boston Lesbians.) Info: Janis, (508) 386-7737.

**Watertown • GLOW Back to School Potluck.** (GLOW = Gays and Lesbians of Watertown) 7 p.m. Info: Becky 395-4664 or Amy (508) 651-1066.

## 17 MONDAY

**Cambridge • PrideTime Travels: "Gay Key West Revisted"** with Jim Voltz and Cynthia Pape. Cambridge Cable Channel 19. 7 p.m.

## 18 TUESDAY

**Cambridge • AIDS Healing Service.** A service of prayer, music and healing, with reception to follow. ASL interpreted. Christ Church, Zero Garden St. (near Harvard Sq. T). 7:30 p.m. Info: 876-0200.

## 19 WEDNESDAY

**Boston • Orientation to AAC Supports and Services.** An overview of the services AIDS Action Committee provides to seropositive and asymptomatic people, to clients, and to their caretakers. AAC Room, 131 Clarendon St. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Repeats 9/27. Please preregister: 437-6200 x328.

**Brookline • Erev Rosh Hashanah.** Am Tikva, Boston's Community of Lesbian and Gay Jews. Oneq to follow. Handicap accessible. Brookline H.S., 115 Greenough St. (Brookline Hills T). 7 p.m. Donation requested: \$20 members, \$30 nonmembers, includes all three High Holiday Services. Reservations required. Donations and reservation requests: Am Tikva, P.O. Box 11, Cambridge 02238 to be received by 9/15. Info: 782-8894.

**Boston • New England Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans General Meeting.** The Center, 338 Newbury St. 7:30 p.m. Info: Cliff 723-8127.

## 20 THURSDAY

**Boston • HCHP Patient Advocacy Union.** For Harvard Comm. H.P. concerned about HIV and AIDS health care. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon, 7th fl. 7 p.m. Info: 864-9596.

**Jamaica Plain • Catie Curtis and Zoe Lewis at Crone's Harvest.** Acoustic folk. \$5. 761 Centre St. 8 p.m. Info: 983-9530.

## 21 FRIDAY

**Boston • New Board Game Group.** First meeting: "informal and fun." The Center, 338 Newbury St. 6 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

**South Dartmouth • Rhode Island & S.E. Mass Gay and Lesbian Jewish Group Monthly Oneg.** A social and potluck held the third Friday of each month. Info: Debra (401) 273-4765 or Fred (508) 992-7927.

**Boston • The Center Film Series: "The Children's Hour."** Lillian Helman's 1962 drama about a child's accusation of lesbianism against two teachers and its fatal consequences. 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

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## SUNDAYS

**Boston • The Gay Dating Show,** WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and gay men.

**Boston • BAGLY Drop-In Center.** (BAGLY = Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth) St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. Info: (800) 42BAGLY.

**Boston • Boston Strikers Soccer Club.** Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 4230929 or Jeff 876-7612.

**Boston • AMALGM Monthly Men's Meeting.** (AMALGM = Assoc. of Mass. Asian Lesbians and Gay Men) Last Sunday of each month. The Center, 338 Newbury St., room 202K. Info: 247-2927.

**Boston • ALATEEN Group** open to lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, 22 and under. 338 Newbury Street, rm. 202k. 6pm-7:30 p.m. Info: Dave 629-2518 or Frank 666-8912.

**Beverly • North Shore Lesbian/Gay Parenting Support Group.** Meets 1st Sun. of each month. First Parish Unitarian Church. 225 Cabot St. 6:30-8 p.m. Info: 593-5252.

**Boston • Boston Healing Circle.** Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30 p.m. Info: 7319584.

**Boston • Boston Bisexual Men's Network.** First Sunday of each month. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 247-6683.

**Boston • Gay Narcotics Anonymous.** The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

## MONDAYS

**Boston • Monday Night Dinners for PWAs and Friends.** About 100 people with AIDS and their friends meet every Monday at AIDS ACTION for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AIDS ACTION, 131 Clarendon St. Info: 437-6200.

**Dorchester • Alcoholics Anonymous.** First Parish Church, Meeting House Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

**Boston • Boston Bisexual Women's Network Coordinating Committee.** The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

**Boston • Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights** holds biweekly planning meeting. The Center, 338 Newbury Street. 7 p.m. Info: 776-6956.

**Boston • Gay Men Considering Parenting.** 8-week group sponsored by FCHC. Presentations and discussion. 7 to 9 p.m. 332 Newbury Street. Not wheelchair accessible; ASL interpretation on request. Pre-registration required. Info: Robb 267-0900 or Jason 522-2289.

**Worcester • AIDS Project Worcester.** A support group for family, friends, and concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 78:30 p.m. Info: (508)755-3773.

**Boston • Northern Lights Alternatives Monday Night Rap Group.** Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30-9 p.m. Info: Ann O'Rourke 694-0964.

**Cambridge • Lesbian Rap Group.** The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 810 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

## TUESDAYS

**Providence, RI • ACT UP/Rhode Island.** Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

**Framingham • Framingham Gay and Lesbian Youth Group.** People 22 and under, meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month. Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S. Framingham, MA 01701.

**Boston • Boston Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays.** 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Harriet Tubman House. 6:30 p.m. Info: 825-2610.

**Boston • ACT UP/Boston.** The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. Info: 49-ACTUP.

**Cambridge • 30+ Lesbian Rap.** The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. Info: 354-8807.

**Arlington • Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** meets on the second Tuesday of every month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 547-2440 or (508) 5625807.

**Boston • Lesbian and Gay Freedom Trill Band Rehearsals.** No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 266-0628.

**Boston • Buddy Program Orientation, AIDS ACTION Committee.** Volunteers needed to provide emotional and practical support to AAC clients on a one-to-one basis. Interested persons should fill out an application and attend orientation and training. Orientation meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. AIDS ACTION offices, 131 Clarendon St. 7:30 p.m. Info: 437-6200 x450.

**Boston • Gay Fathers of Greater Boston** meet 1st and 3rd Tues. of the month. Lindemann Center, 2nd fl. 810 p.m. 7427897.

**Cambridge • Women For Sobriety,** a self help group for women recovering from addictions. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30 p.m. 354-8807.

## WEDNESDAYS

**Boston • Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY).** Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6 p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30 p.m. 523-7363 or 1-800-42-BAGLY.

**Cambridge • Lesbian AlAnon** with child care, wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:308 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

**Worcester • Supporters of Worcester Area Gay and Lesbian Youth.** Open to gay and bisexual youth 21 and under. Meets first and third Wednesday each month at United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7 p.m. Info: (508) 755-0005.

**Boston • Positive Directions.** Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. Info: 262-3456.

**Worcester • Support Group for HIV+ who are In Substance Abuse Recovery.** Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

**Boston • Coming Out Support Group.** At the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 338 Newbury St. Second and fourth week of each month, starting 9/26. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

## THURSDAYS

**Boston • The Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.** Meets every Thursday. The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 828-3039.

**Dorchester • Gay and Lesbian Concerns Committee of SEIU Local 509.** Meets 2nd Thurs. of each month. At Union Office. 5 Howard Johnson Plaza. 6:30 p.m. Info: 282-2509.

**Northampton • Valley Gay Alliance** meets first and third Thursday every month. Basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30 p.m. (413) 527-5310.

**Boston • ACA for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexuals.** (ACA = Adult Children of Alcoholics.) Support group for all adult children of dysfunctional family systems. Lindemann Center, 2nd floor, Winthrop Room. Wheelchair access. 8 p.m. Info: 536-2856.

**Boston • GLAAD: Boston Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.** General meetings 2nd Thursday of the month. The Center rm 202. 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 492-4639.

**Boston • The Group.** Discussion and social hour. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 266-1129.

## FRIDAYS

**Boston • Women In Black.** Demonstrate outside Israeli Consulate in support of the Palestinian right to statehood. Statler Bldg. Near Arlington St. Station. 1st Friday of every month. 12:30-1:30 p.m. Info: 723-6327.

**Boston • Friday Night At The Movies.** The Boston Living Center. 140 Clarendon St. Free. 7 p.m. Info: 236-1012.

## SATURDAYS

**Boston • Frontrunners.** Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers complimentary. 10 a.m. Also: Tues. 12:15 p.m. at MHC; Wed. 6:45 p.m. at Hatch Shell. Info: 282-0013.

**Cambridge • Single Mothers' Support Group.** Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

**Boston • Pink Flamigos.** For TV/TS of New England. Every Saturday, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. Info: 247-2927.

**Boston • Lesbian Fun and Games.** Smoke and alcohol-free. 338 Newbury St. 7 to 10 p.m. the third Saturday of each month. \$2 donation.

## ONGOING

**Boston • AAC "Dancing In Time" (Registration).** Register now and begin collecting pledges for a five-hour dance-athon to benefit AIDS ACTION Committee. Hynes Convention Center Ballroom. September 30. 4-9 p.m. Registration or more info: 266-6906.

**Marblehead • North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance Annual Auction.** Time and talent are needed to help organize NSGLA's most significant fundraiser; other donations are welcome. Auction to be held 10/14. Info: (508) 927-2903.



The Fourth Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival. Sept. 10-16, 1990. At the Anthology Film Archive, 32 Second Ave., New York. For more info: (212) 477-2714.

By Alisa S. Lebow

New Yorkers are truly blessed. A town that can barely sustain two women's bars seems to have no problem putting on two resoundingly successful queer film festivals annually — priorities that warm my heart. This year's New Festival has come and gone, leaving a trail of exhausted but exhilarated film fanatics. Now we're gearing up for the Fourth Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival, scheduled to begin September 10th and to run through September 16th. Last year's Experimental drew over 2,500 people, making it the best-attended experimental film event in the world.

I wonder if our attendance record is more a comment on our level of filmic sophistication as a community or merely evidence of our insatiable desire to see images of ourselves and our lives reflected on screen, be they dime-store classics like *Desert Hearts* or obscure cult hits like Andy Warhol's *My Hustler*, (which, by the way, is included in this year's program). The fact is, if the word "experimental" wasn't actually included in the title, I'm not sure I would be able to see a huge distinction between the two festivals, except perhaps in magnitude (the New Festival is considerably bigger).

I have to admit, part of the reason that many of the films I screened for this review didn't seem particularly experimental was my extremely narrow definition of what experimental film is. To my mind experimental film means abstract, non-narrative and often obscure. Most of the films I saw this year were none of the above. They were focused, accessible, political and some were even narrative (more or less). The festival's coordinators, Sarah Schulman and Jim Hubbard have a much broader, more inclusive interpretation of experimental film that might be simplistically summed up as "non-traditional" and "non-commercial." But calling it a lesbian and gay non-traditional film festival would not only seem redundant but unwieldy. Whatever you call them, the films in this year's program are, for the most part,

## Blessed be New Yorkers

...for theirs is the Fourth Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival



From Christine Vachon's "Way of the Wicked"

strong and interesting enough to speak for themselves.

This year's festival highlights works by and/or about Black gay men. Two in particular stand out, both of which were shown previously at the New Festival but which bear repetition. *Tongues Untied*, by Marlon Riggs (known for his award winning film *Ethnic Notions*) and *Looking for Langston* by British filmmaker Isaac Julian will both go down in film (and video) history as having forged a new visual vocabulary to represent and celebrate a Black gay experience. They are both ground breaking in different ways.

*Tongues Untied* has a more contemporary feel, with Riggs intercutting his own presumably autobiographical story with the poetry of Essex Hemphill (The Muse of the Movement?), with lapses into the truly inspired, such as one segment exploring the etymology of "the snap." Go Girl. *Looking for Langston* also draws some of its texture

from Essex Hemphill's poetry (The Muse of the Moment?) but somehow the feeling is different: more somber, more abstract. "Beautiful" figures in every sentence of my screening notes for this film. Whether commenting on one of the characters, whose name is actually "Beautiful," or on the cinematography, the sets, the poetry, the costumes, whatever, this film is a lavish visual experience. *Looking for Langston* is a powerful, lyrical reappropriation of the Harlem Renaissance by a Black gay filmmaker.

Two of the other films included in the focus on films by, or about, Black gay men deal directly and explicitly with the issue of (photographic) representation of Black men. *Eye to Eye*, by NYU film student Isabel Hegner, is a sophisticated yet troubling film allegedly about Jack Walls, lover of and model for photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. Walls was the decapitated model of "Man with a Gun" (a gun-wielding

Black man with erection) about which Walls says he has disassociated himself and is now able to see it for what it is: "just a picture of a dick and a gun." Walls, who is loyal to Mapplethorpe in the extreme, dismisses concerns that he and other Black models were exploited by Mapplethorpe and claims that the only reason Mapplethorpe liked to work with Black models was aesthetic — "the Black body just reads better, like bronze." It's tempting to argue in favor of the film, that amidst all the debate about Mapplethorpe's representation of Black men (publicly begun by Essex Hemphill — Muse with a Mission?), no one besides Hegner, including Hemphill himself, ever asked the model what *he* thought. However, the total lack of political analysis — plus the fact that the film masquerades as a portrait of Walls while it is really a portrait of Mapplethorpe in absentia (even though it was shot while he was still alive) — renders the film more problematic than one might have hoped.

Arguing the other side of the representation issue is Jack Waters' autobiographical film *Male Gayze* about his experience posing informally for a Dutch "friend" of his who assured him he would not show the photographs to anyone and ended up publishing one of them and making postcards of it for profit. The image was of Waters, nude and decapitated (a seemingly common practice) on a plain background. While the style of the film is somewhat stilted and inflexible, lacking the visual sophistication of Hegner's film, it does provide the political perspective so sorely missing in *Eye to Eye*.

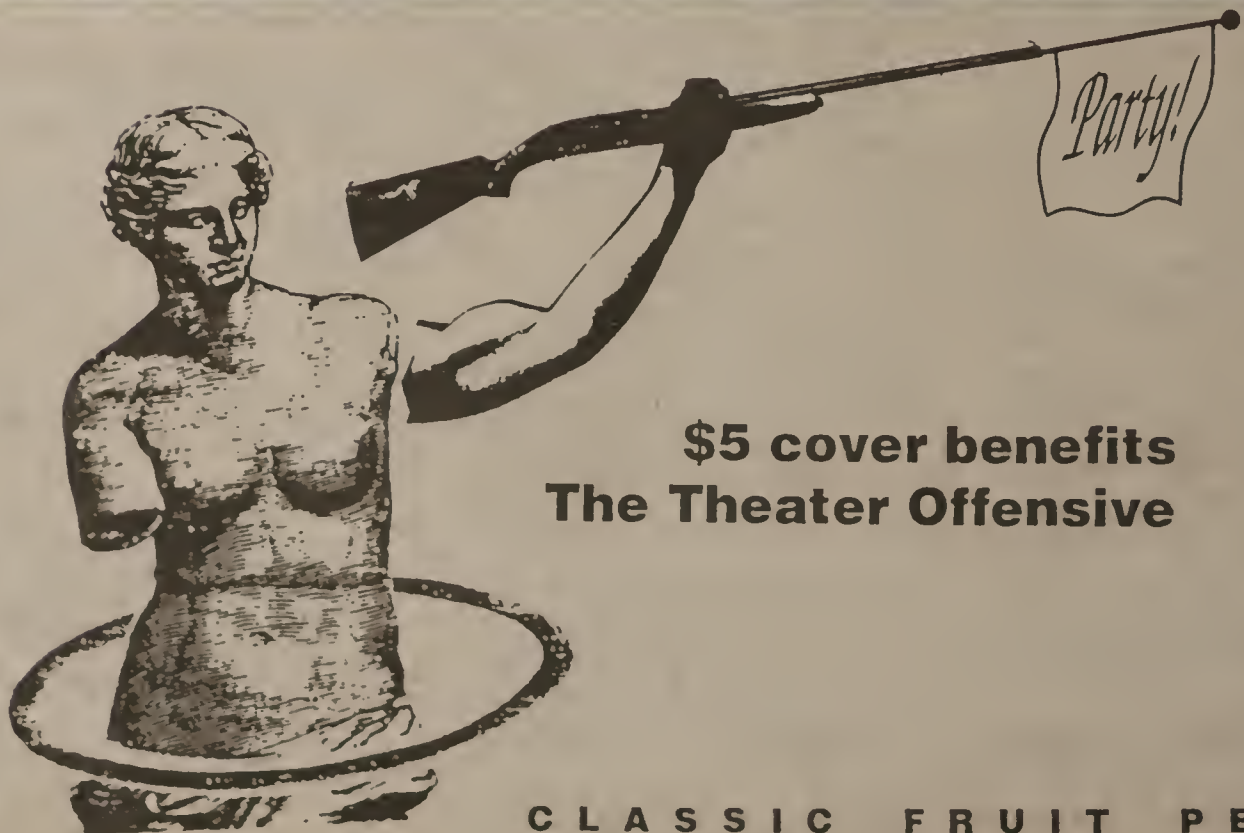
From an international perspective, I screened Brazilian filmmaker Tania Cypriano's *Viva Eu!* (Long Live Me!), a portrait of Milton Braga, a Brazilian artist with AIDS. (This seems to be the year of women filmmakers focussing on male subjects, *Eye to Eye*, *Viva Eu!* and *Paris is Burning* by Jenny Livingston — about voguing and the culture of the Harlem Balls — are all male). Braga is an eccentric character. We meet him in a trendy Brazilian bar, sitting under elaborate mosquito netting (suggesting something of a "Boy in the Plastic Bubble" motif). He tells us right off that he has been living with AIDS for seven years even though the doctor gave him only 18 months. He is definitely a

Continued on page 11

CELEBRATE **UNITED FRUIT COMPANY'S** 5TH YEAR



VIDEO SHOWS



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Wednesday  
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CLASSIC FRUIT PERFORMANCES •

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